on the floor of the House. I am warning him also that his words constitute an assurance.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has mentioned in his statement that a number of agencies are implementing these works. He has also stated that the delay caused was due to the DDA and the Urban Art Centre. I would like to know in particular whether his Ministry would like to have some kind of monitoring at regular intervals so that these matters can be looked into. Otherwise, it will have not only time-running but cost-running effects as well. At the same time, there is a complaint that the Urban Art Commission finalises the contractors first, before clearing any project, and that they are issuing the clearances subsequently. Once the contractor is finalised, then only clearance is given. That is why, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he would like to get this matter inquired into and take suitable action.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: No doubt, complaints have been received that the Urban Art Commission is unnecessarily delaying the clearance. As regards the allegation about the contractors being finalised before giving clearance, I will have this looked into. No doubt, there has been unnecessary delay and I will convey this to the Urban Art Commission and also to the Housing Ministry. If possible we will associate with it so that we can get the clearnace an implement the projects as quickly as possible.

Assistance to Kerala

*634. SHRI THAYIL JOHN ANJALOSE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has requested the Union Government for additional assistance to meet financial crisis;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a) and (b). The Government of Kerala requested for an additional special assistance of Rs. 100 crores as medium-term loan to tide over their financial difficulties during 1991–92.

(c) The request of the State Government was considered in this Ministry and, in view of severe resources constraint faced by the Centre, was not agreed to. However, to enable the State to tide over their financial difficulties, advance release of their entitlements in respect of Central assistance for State Plan and share in Central taxes was made. Ways and means advance was also given to the State. In addition, repayment of loan and payment of interest thereon were also rephased on six occasions during 1991–92.

SHRI THAYIL JOHN ANJALOSE: Sir, the hike in the prices of wheat and rice distributed through Public Distribution System has seriously affected the PDS as a whole. In order to cope up with the increased price the Kerala Government had announced subsidy anticipating financial assistance from the Centre.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Central Government has taken any action in this regard.

SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE: Sir, subsidy has been announced by the State Government on its own. Centre cannot do anything in this regard.

SHRI THAYIL JOHN ANJALOSE: The order to raise additional resources, the Kerala Government has contemplated levy and entry tax at the rate of Rs. 1.5 per litre on crude oil arriving at Cochin refineries. A Bill to this effect was forwarded to the Government of India for its previous sanction.

Till this time the Centre has not given sanction to this where as States like West Bengal, Karnataka, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh are given permission. I would like

to know whether the Government has taken any action in this regard; if it has, by what time the permission would be granted to the State Government in this regard.

SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE: Sir, the State Governments get grants from the Central Government as per the recommendations of the 9th Finance Commission. Planning Commission also gives them grant. But this proposal is not with our Ministry. If it comes to us we will take the necessary action. At present the proposal is not with us.

SHRI A. CHARLES: Kerala is a State which earns the maximum foreign exchange. Unfortunately, for the remarkable and commendable progress that we have made, Kerala Government is deprived of the assistance from the Centre in many areas whereas other States are eligible for it. I do not say it is discrimination but because of our achievements we do not get any assistance from the Centre.

May I know from the hon. Minister that in view of the fact that we earn maximum foreign exchange and we have made remarkable progress in all in the areas, to tide over the present difficulty whether the Government of India will release the additional special assistance of Rs. 100 crores to the State of Kerala so that we may continue to retain the achievements made so far?

SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE: Sir, as the hon. Member has said, the foreign exchange is coming to Kerala and not to the Government of India. Secondly, Sir, as I said, the grants given to the states are as per the provisions of the 9th Finance Commission and the Planning Commission.

SHRI E. AHAMED: Sir, the hon. Minister has submitted before the House that the State Government of Kerala has approached the Centre for the medium-term loan and it was not agreed to. May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government of Kerala only has approached the Central Government for such a loan or some other States have also requested for the medium-term loan and what was the response of the Centre to such requests, if any?

SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE: Sir, the other Governments have also made such requests to the Central Government. Himachal Pradesh Government is there. Bihar Government is there. U.P. Government is there. Orissa Government is there. Assam Government is there. It is very difficult.

MR. SPEAKER: The response has been the same.

Audit of B.C.C.I.

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*635. SHRI N.K. BALIYAN:
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India had ordered a special audit of the Bombay branch of erstwhile Bank of Credit and Commerce International;

(b) whether the audit has since been completed;

(c) if so, the main findings thereof; and

(d) if not, the time by which the audit is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The special audit is to cover the accounts of Bombay branch of Bank of Credit and Commerce International (Overseas) Ltd. (BCCI) for the period 1.4.1983 to 5.7.1991. The auditors have submitted an interim report covering inward remittances for the period 1.4.1983 to 31.12.1985. Specific high value transactions mentioned in the report are being scrutinised by Reserve Bank of India to ascertain their compliance with relevant rules. Reserve Bank of India is following up with the auditors for submission of their final report.